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✓Cunningham, Harry (ca)  
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April 23, 1946

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM TO COLONEL HARRY CUNNINGHAM,  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP.

In compliance with your request, I confirm herewith a statement of my opinion as given before your Committee on April 16.

The question directed at me pertained to the value of the services extended to the State Department by the X-2 Branch of SSU. It did not pertain to the SI work of SSU. It is my opinion that X-2 has made and continues to make valuable contributions to the work of the Department. These services consist in large part of the screening in foreign countries of visa applicants and other persons who claim to have the right to American passports. While the records maintained by X-2 are of great value to us, the officers in charge abroad also contribute substantially to work which is of mutual value.

In my opinion this work should be continued, either by X-2 or FBI, at least until such time as the Department is in a position to staff its missions abroad with the required number of visa and passport officers.

The subject of the FBI work in the other American republics, and in certain other key spots abroad, was also discussed. The FBI has done a splendid job and seems to be particularly well equipped to handle security or counter-intelligence abroad. The experience of the State Department with FBI activities, especially in the other American republics, leads me to endorse heartily the plan calling for world wide coverage by that organization. The FBI has indeed proven its worth in the foreign field.

Frederick B. Lyon  
Director, Office of Controls

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